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March 25, 2008

Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Notice of Intent of State of Montana to Participate in Ex Parte No. 677,
Common Carrier Obligation of Railroads

Dear Ms. Quinlan:

We are writing to notify the Board of the plans of the State of Montana, on its own behalf and on behalf of various Montana agricultural interests, to participate in the hearing scheduled in this proceeding for April 24, 2007. These interests include the following:

Honorable Brian Schweitzer, Governor of Montana
Montana Wheat & Barley Committee
Montana Farmers Union
Montana Grain Growers Association

Ten minutes are requested for presentation of Montana's views, which will address rail common carrier obligation issues generally and with specific reference to rail service needs in Montana, the most captive state in the nation.

It is requested that the speaker for the State of Montana be scheduled to appear on the same panel with Mr. Terry C. Whiteside, speaker for numerous agricultural interests (Idaho Wheat Commission, et al.) and the Alliance for Rail Competition. The State of Montana and Mr. Whiteside's groups expect to file a joint written statement.

Appearing for Montana, if their schedules permit, will be the Honorable Mike McGrath, Attorney General of Montana, or the Honorable Jim Lynch, Director of the Montana Department of Transportation. In the event their schedules do not permit travel to Washington, DC for this hearing, it is requested that Mr. Cutler be permitted to speak as Montana's representative. In addition, please add the following to the service list as counsel for Montana:

John M. Cutler, Jr.
McCarthy, Sweeney & Harkaway, P.C.
2175 K Street, N.W., Suite 600
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jcutler@mshpc.com

Please contact Mr. Cutler if there are any questions concerning this notification of intent to participate in this proceeding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Cutler, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John M. Cutler, Jr.
Terry C. Whiteside